

QUESTIONS FOR JUDGE DONNA GROMAN, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY COURT

JUNE 22, 2016

1. What role do the juvenile courts play in oversight of the Probation Department? Ideally, what role do you think the Courts can and should play in improving Probation oversight? (Holt)
2. What role would do you see the current Probation Commission providing in oversight to the Department, specifically on the juvenile side? (Meredith)
3. In reformation of the existing Probation Commission or developing a new Oversight Body, do you have thoughts or recommendations as it relates to Juveniles? As it relates to adults? (Meredith)
4. In April, we received an update of Probation's field services population and learned that 2,723 youth are on "active investigation." We further learned that these 2,723 youth have cases pending disposition / pre-adjudication. (Chodroff)
 - a. To what extent do you think the pre-plea report system in Los Angeles contributes to the high number of youth on "active investigation" probation supervision?
 - b. Are all cases that are open in juvenile court considered under "active investigation"?
 - c. Does the high number of youth under probation supervision prior to adjudication concern you?
 - d. What solutions might you recommend to address these issue?
5. Does the increasing number of 236 cases on probation caseloads concern you in any way? Please explain. (Chodroff)
6. What limitations do you see with respect to oversight over the Probation Department? (Chodroff)
7. What, if any, relationship does the Court have with any of the existing entities charged with overseeing aspects of the Probation Department? (Chodroff)
8. Do you think the Probation Department should be divided between adult and juvenile divisions? (Chodroff)

9. Do you think there should be a separate division or entity to supervise transition age youth (TAY)? (Chodroff)
10. What is the role of the Juvenile Reentry Council? We have been told the Juvenile Reentry Council is not active at this time. Do you have any information about if and when this council might become active? What, if any, is or might be the role of this Council with respect to oversight over the Probation Department? (Chodroff)
11. Substance abuse issues have plagued youth and adults on Probation. In recent months, youth and adults on probation have died from overdosing on synthetic marijuana (spice) and other drugs. Do you have any thoughts or suggestions as to how the Court, Probation Department, and outside entities might work together to prevent and address this tragic epidemic? (Chodroff)
12. WIC 225 states every county shall have a juvenile justice commission. WIC 240 states in counties over 6 million there shall be a Probation Commission. Most California counties have juvenile justice commissions (WIC 225-231) that are appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with concurrence from the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Only Los Angeles County and San Francisco City/County have Probation Commissions (WIC 240-243). San Francisco has 2 such commissions - Adult Probation Commission(WIC 240-243) and a Juvenile Probation Commission (in lieu of a juvenile justice commission WIC 225-231). Juvenile Justice Commissions operate under the jurisdiction of the Courts. (Holt)
 - a. To your knowledge does Los Angeles County have a juvenile justice commission (WIC 225-231) and/or a juvenile delinquency prevention commission (232-236)? If not, what would be LA County's equivalent?
 - b. Please explain any understanding why LA County is the only county not to have a juvenile probation or juvenile justice commission.
13. Do the juvenile courts have any interactions with civilian oversight bodies involved with Juvenile probation? If so, please describe. (Holt)
14. When reports, audits, findings, and recommendations are made in relation to the WIC 209 and California Title 15 Sec 1313 (e) requirement for the juvenile courts to inspect and evaluate juvenile detention/residential facilities, who under the courts' supervision conducts inspections of these facilities? (Holt)

15. Who is responsible for issuing the inspection reports, addressing concerns and issues, developing recommendation and implementing corrective action plans and following up to assure proper implementation and effectiveness? (Holt)
16. Is there ongoing feedback regarding these institutions, including corrective actions taken, to the appropriate citizen oversight entities? (Holt)
17. What, if any, recommendations for improvement of oversight for the Los Angeles County Probation Department would you suggest? (Holt)